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ABSTRACT

The number of students per 1,000 12th graders who participated in Advanced Placement (AP) examinations shows the level of importance that students, schools, and colleges place on the AP program and how that importance has changed over time. Between 1984 and 1997, the number of students who took AP examinations increased dramatically, from 50 to 131 students per 1,000 12th graders. By 1997, more females than males (145 per 1,000 compared with 117 per 1,000) took the AP examinations. Whites were more likely than Blacks or Hispanics to take AP examinations except in the area of foreign languages. Two tables and two figures provide information about the students who took AP examinations and the examinations they chose. The highest participation was for social studies examinations. (SLD)

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ED 434 166

Students Who Took Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations

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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Students who took Advanced Placement (AP) examinations

October 1999

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is associated with a demanding academic curriculum and illustrates the desire of high schools to offer college-level courses to high school students. By participating in the AP program, high school students may acquire college credit for their knowledge of college-level subjects. The number of students per 1,000 12th-graders who participated in AP examinations each year shows the level of importance that students, schools, and colleges place on the AP program and how that importance has changed over time.

- Between 1984 and 1997, the number of students who took AP examinations increased dramatically, rising from 50 to 131 students per 1,000 12th-graders. The number of examinees increased for both sexes and all racial–ethnic groups during this period.
- In 1984, equal proportions of male and female students took AP examinations. Between 1984 and 1997, the number of females who took the examinations rose at a faster rate than did the number of males who took the examinations. In 1997, 145 females compared with 117 males per 1,000 12th-graders took AP examinations.
- In 1997, whites were more likely than blacks or Hispanics to take AP examinations in all subject areas, with the exception of foreign languages. Hispanics were at least three times as likely to take a foreign language AP examination as whites.

Number of U.S. students[1] who took AP examinations (per 1,000 12th-graders), by sex and race–ethnicity: 1984–97

Sex and race–ethnicity	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Total[2]	**50**	**59**	**64**	**66**	**81**	**88**	**100**	**103**	**109**	**117**	**115**	**125**	**131**	**131**
Sex														
Male	50	61	65	68	76	86	101	96	102	108	101	111	117	117
Female	50	58	63	65	85	90	98	111	117	127	129	140	144	145
Race–ethnicity														
White	48	60	62	63	82	92	103	107	112	115	116	125	133	132
Black	8	11	12	13	21	20	26	25	26	31	32	37	32	37
Hispanic	24	21	27	30	48	54	54	67	68	80	63	75	74	85

Number of AP examinations[1] taken in the United States and the number of examinations with scores of 3 or higher (per 1,000 12th-graders), by subject area, sex, and race–ethnicity: 1997

	Number of AP examinations taken						Number of examinations with scores of 3 or higher					
Sex and race–ethnicity	Social studies	English	Foreign language	Calculus	Computer science	Science	Social studies	English	Foreign language	Calculus	Computer science	Science
Total[2]	**59**	**55**	**17**	**33**	**3**	**35**	**35**	**38**	**12**	**20**	**1**	**23**
Sex[3]												
Male	62	42	13	36	5	41	40	28	9	24	3	28
Female	70	70	23	30	1	34	40	48	17	17	0	20
Race–ethnicity												
White	61	58	12	33	2	34	38	41	7	21	1	22
Black	15	17	3	7	1	8	5	6	1	2	0	2
Hispanic	26	27	41	12	1	12	11	12	36	6	0	5

[1] Includes all participation by 11th- and 12th-graders.

[2] Included in the total but not shown separately are students from other racial–ethnic groups.

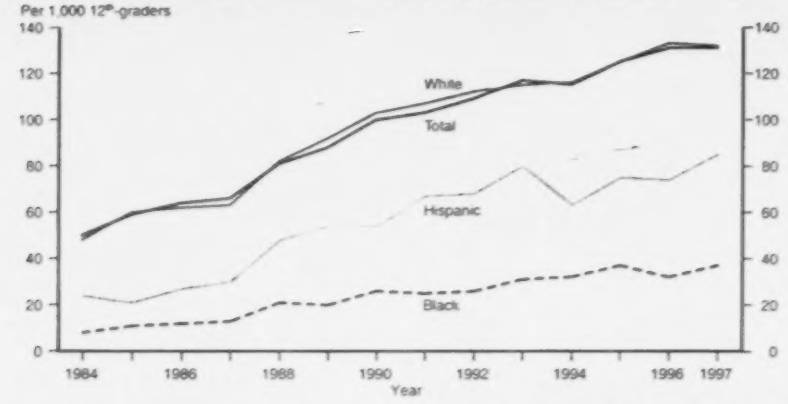
[3] The number of examinations taken by males and females includes a small number of examinations taken by 9th-graders, 10th-graders, college students, and others (9 percent of all students who took AP examinations in 1997).

NOTE: Included in this analysis are students who participated in the United States only. Students scoring 3 or higher on an AP examination usually receive college credit. Since, on average, AP candidates take more than one examination, there is not a 1:1 ratio between candidates and examinations.

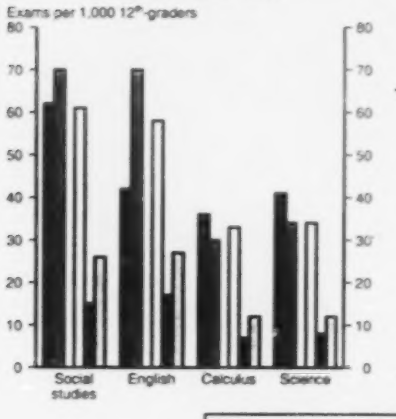
SOURCE: The College Board, Advanced Placement Program, *National Summary Reports* (Copyright © 1984–97 by the College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved.). U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Surveys.

Students who took Advanced Placement (AP) examinations

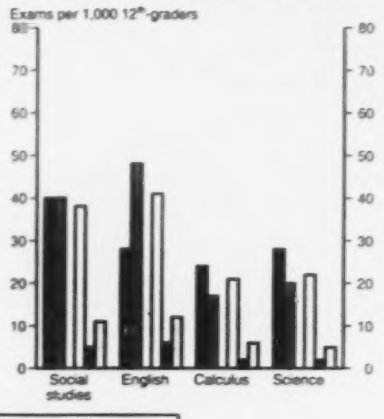
Number of U.S. students[1] who took AP examinations: 1984–97

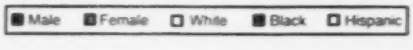


Number of AP examinations[1] taken in the United States:[2] 1997



Number of examinations[1] with scores of 3 or higher in the United States:[2] 1997





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